

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR RFP-10-34

Q1: IDOE asks for respondents Needs and Capacity Assessment to include a Data Security Plan on page 3 of the RFP. Does this Data Security Plan apply to the statewide needs assessment survey and/or to the data security needs of statewide SMS/vertically integrated solution?

**A1: The Data Security Plan applies to the statewide needs assessment survey only. Vendors must submit a plan as to how they will ensure the security of the data they collect through the needs assessment survey.**

Q2: On page 4 of the RFP, the project scope includes “recommendations for the optimal solution, as well as approximate costs and timelines for feasible implementation.” Implementation of a statewide SMS or SIF implementation is a large, complex systems integration project. How detailed do the cost estimates for this project need to be? For example, does the scope of this project include creation of a high level statewide technical architecture on which to base cost estimates?

**A2: Cost estimates need only be general and not highly detailed. The RFP is designed to be information gathering. The scope of the project does not include creation of a technical architecture or any detailed base for cost estimates.**

Q3: On page 4 of the RFP, the project scope includes “recommendations for the optimal solution, as well as approximate costs and timelines for feasible implementation.” Implementation of a statewide SMS or SIF implementation is a large, complex systems integration project. Are detailed requirements expected as an outcome of the selection of the “optimal solution”?

**A3: No. The RFP is designed to be information gathering. The recommendation for the “optimal solution” does not need to include detailed requirements and must be high-level only. IDOE’s intent with the recommendation for an optimal solution is for the vendor to utilize data gathered from stakeholders to identify which solution appears to be optimal. The understanding is that once IDOE has selected a solution, IDOE will release a second RFP seeking a vendor to implement the optimal solution.**

Q4: On page 4 of the RFP, the project scope includes “recommendations for the optimal solution, as well as approximate costs and timelines for feasible implementation.” Implementation of a statewide SMS or SIF implementation is a large, complex systems integration project. Will all the viable solutions be presented, or just the selected alternative?

**A4: Vendor submissions should include information on all elements described in the scope of work. In terms of presenting costs and timelines, as well as recommendations, IDOE is looking for vendors to use the data collected to provide a recommendation for an optimal solution. However, the vendor would also need to provide a plan that describes the methods by which data will be collected, analyzed, and shared to answer the other questions in the scope of work. Other questions within the scope of work include benefits and drawbacks to all potential solutions; needs, capabilities, and challenges; extent of support for potential solutions; and key risks, benefits, and challenges to each solution.**

Q5: Does the scope of data to be collected as part of the new statewide data collection system include item level analysis of student test scores by school?

**A5: No, at this time IDOE does not plan to collect item level analysis student test score data.**

Q6: Did IDOE submit another IES SLDS grant application last week? If so, could potential respondents get a copy of this to understand the future direction of IDOE's statewide data collection system efforts?

**A6: Yes, IDOE did submit a SLDS/ARRA grant application for 2010 funds. At this time the application is not available to vendors. However, A9 provides information regarding IDOE's goals and objectives and to-date accomplishments related to a statewide longitudinal data system.**

Q7: Is there any additional information regarding the statement of work aside from what is provided in section 1.4 of the RFP?

**A7: No, all information required for the statement of work is provided in section 1.4.**

Q8: Is there a specific format for the cost proposal?

**A8: There is no specifically required format for the cost proposal. However, the cost proposal must include all elements detailed in section 2.5, including vendor salaries, phone and IT services, mailings, supplies, etc., as well as an overall total cost.**

Q9: Could DOE please provide a broader description than what is in the RFP on how this project fits into DOE's broader goals and objectives. What has been accomplished to-date in implementing a statewide SID and a longitudinal data system?

**A9: To date, IDOE has utilized funding received from the federal government through the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) project to implement an enterprise data warehouse, pilot data linkages with higher education and workforce, and create a tool called Learning Connection to provide student-level assessment data reports to classroom teachers. Future goals and objectives of IDOE include the implementation of an automated, real-time data exchange solution with data interoperability (which the needs and capacity assessment will provide baseline data for); construction of a transcript repository to link higher education and K-12 data; and further implementation of data access tools for educators.**

Q10: Is there a requirement or preferred percentage of data collection that you wish to be face-to-face with the local stakeholders?

**A10: No. There is no requirement or preferred percentage that must be face-to-face with local stakeholders. Data may be collected by any mechanism, as long as the scope of work is accomplished. However, IDOE expects that the vendor will provide a plan for ensuring maximum stakeholder participation in the assessment.**